

DR. M. K. KNAUFF.

JUNE 16, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 11374.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11374) to reimburse Dr. M. K. Knauff, have given the same a careful consideration and beg leave to submit a report, with the recommendation that the bill pass without amendment.

House Report No. 1080, Sixty-first Congress, second session, is adopted and made a part of this report, as follows:

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11374) to reimburse Dr. M. K. Knauff, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

In lines 4 and 5 strike out the words "four hundred and twenty-eight" and in lieu thereof insert the words "three hundred and three."

Theodore Rollett, quartermaster on U. S. light-house tender *Marigold*, was injured on July 31, 1907, while helping to transport coal from dock to light-house in the harbor at Two Harbors, Minn. His back was broken, several vertebrae being fractured, and the accident did not result from any negligence on his part.

The injury was so very serious that the only chance of recovery was to be found in immediate medical treatment of the very best kind. It was not possible to move him any distance. The captain of the boat accordingly took him to the Two Harbors hospital and requested Doctor Knauff to give him every attention. There was not a marine hospital in Two Harbors, and there was not a United States marine surgeon at that point, the nearest being at Duluth, 28 miles distant.

Under existing rules the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service can incur expenses for treatment of seamen only at ports where regularly established stations of the service are maintained.

The operation was one of the few successful ones of its kind, and Rollett is now able to earn a living. Every surgical attention and most skillful nursing were given him.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT,
Detroit, Mich., December 3, 1907.

SIRS: Inclosed herewith is a letter from Dr. M. K. Knauff, Two Harbors Hospital, Two Harbors, Minn., together with his bill for medical and hospital treatment furnished Mr. Theodore Rollet, quartermaster on the tender *Marigold*, who was seriously injured at that port on July 31, 1907; also a copy of a communication to me from the Surgeon-General, Public-Health and Marine-Hospital Service, at Washington, to whom the bill was referred from this office under date of November 20, 1907.

Quartermaster Rollet was injured by being struck by the tramway car used for transporting coal from the dock to the fog signal at the Two Harbors (Minn.) light-station, and his back was broken and so seriously injured that he was not expected to survive.

The nearest port at which marine-hospital service could have been obtained is at Duluth, Minn., some 26 miles distant; but in view of the seriousness of the accident and the necessity for prompt treatment, it was manifestly impossible to transport him there, and he was sent to the hospital at Two Harbors, Minn., and immediately operated on.

Had he not received this prompt attention there is no doubt that he would have succumbed to his injuries, and it was surely in the cause of humanity that he should receive immediate attention, and the best that could be obtained.

The Surgeon-General's letter states that the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service can incur expenses of treatment of seamen only at ports where regularly established stations of the service are maintained, and the papers in the case are respectfully referred to the board with the request to be advised if there is not some way in which the charges for Rollet's medical and hospital treatment, which, in so serious a case as this, seem to me most reasonable, can be paid by the Government. As he was in the employ of the Government at the time and was injured in the performance of his duties, he should, in my opinion, be entitled to medical attendance at government expense.

Very respectfully,

JAMES T. SMITH,
Commander, U. S. Navy, Inspector.

The LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, Washington, D. C.

TWO HARBORS, MINN., November 2, 1907.

United States Government Marine-Hospital Service, for Theodore Rollet on Marigold. Injured July 31, 1907, at Two Harbors, Minn. Back broken by being struck with coal car while unloading.

Private room, July 31 to November 2, 13½ weeks, at \$10.....	\$135
Operation, laminectomy, performed July 31, and dressings.....	250
Air bed purchased and shipped with Rollet to Detroit, Mich.....	23
Special nurse, one week.....	20
	<hr/> \$428

The patient had complete paralysis of bladder, legs, and rectum. He now is able to move his bowels, pass his water, and complete sensation in both legs with some motion. He is now at Detroit, Mich.

TWO HARBORS, MINN., November 4, 1907.

I hereby certify that the above statement of claim against the United States Government is true and just; that the services have been rendered as stated, and the articles furnished patient.

M. K. KNAUFF, M. D.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Lake, ss:*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of November, A. D. 1907.

JOHN A. BARTON,
Notary Public, Lake County, Minn.

My commission expires July 14, 1909.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 18, 1909.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the committee's letter of December 24, 1908, inclosing a copy of H. R. 21701, "To reimburse Dr. M. K. Knauff," I beg to state that I am of the opinion that Doctor Knauff should be reimbursed for his services and the excellent and professional care he gave Mr. Theodore Rollette, who was injured while quartermaster on the light-house tender *Marigold*, which apparently resulted in the saving of Mr. Rollette's life. The bill seems to be reasonable under the circumstances, and I recommend that it be passed.

Very truly, yours,

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

CHAIRMAN THE COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS,
House of Representatives.